

# Ophelia and the Marvelous Boy



By  
Karen Foxlee

A Novel Study  
by Joel Michel Reed

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**About the author:** Joel Reed has over 70 published novel studies and is the author of four novels. For information on his work and literature, please visit [www.reednovelstudies.com](http://www.reednovelstudies.com)

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## Suggestions and Expectations

This curriculum unit can be used in a variety of ways. Each section of the novel study focuses on several chapters of *Ophelia and The Marvelous Boy* and is comprised of five of the following different activities:

- Before You Read
- Vocabulary Building
- Comprehension Questions
- Language Activities
- Extension Activities

### Links with the Common Core Standards (U.S.)

Many of the activities included in this curriculum unit are supported by the Common Core Standards. For instance the *Reading Standards for Literature, Grade 5*, makes reference to:

- a) determining the meaning of words and phrases. . . including figurative language;
- b) explaining how a series of chapters fits together to provide the overall structure;
- c) compare and contrast two characters;
- d) determine how characters ... respond to challenges;
- e) drawing inferences from the text;
- f) determining a theme of a story . . . and many others.

A principal expectation of the unit is that students will develop their skills in reading, writing, listening and oral communication, as well as in reasoning and critical thinking. Students will also be expected to provide clear answers to questions and well-constructed explanations. It is critical as well that students be able to relate events and the feelings of characters to their own lives and experiences and describe their own interpretation of a particular passage.

A strength of the unit is that students can work on the activities at their own pace. Every activity need not be completed by all students. A **portfolio cover** is included (p.7) so that students may organize their work and keep it all in one place. A **Student Checklist** is also included (p.6) so that a record of completed work may be recorded.

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### List of Skills

#### Vocabulary Development

- 1. Locating descriptive words/phrases
- 2. Listing synonyms/homonyms
- 3. Identifying / creating *alliteration*
- 4. Use of capitals and punctuation
- 5. Identifying syllables
- 6. Identify *anagrams*
- 7. Use of singular/plural nouns
- 8. Listing compound words
- 9. Identifying parts of speech
- 10. Determining alphabetical order
- 11. Identify *personification*
- 12. Identify/create *similes*

#### Setting Activities

- 1. Summarize the details of a setting

#### Plot Activities

- 1. Complete a *time line* of events
- 2. Identify conflict in the story
- 3. Complete a story pyramid
- 4. Identify *cliffhangers*
- 5. Identify the climax of the novel
- 6. Complete a 3-2-1 activity

#### Character Activities

- 1. Determine character traits
- 2. Complete a character comparison
- 3. Relating personal experiences

#### Creative and Critical Thinking

- 1. Research
- 2. Write a newspaper story
- 3. Participate in a talk show
- 4. Conduct an interview
- 5. Write about personal feelings
- 6. Write a book review
- 7. Complete an Observation Sheet
- 8. Complete a KWS Chart

#### Art Activities

- 1. A Storyboard
- 2. Create a collage
- 3. Design a wanted poster
- 4. Design a cover for the novel
- 5. Create a comic strip

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## Synopsis

This is the story of unlikely heroine Ophelia Jane Worthington-Whittard who doesn't believe in anything that can't be proven by science. She and her sister Alice are still grieving for their dead mother when their father takes a job in a strange museum in a city where it always snows. On her very first day in the museum Ophelia discovers a boy locked away in a long forgotten room. He is a prisoner of Her Majesty, the Snow Queen. And he has been waiting for Ophelia's help.

As Ophelia embarks on an incredible journey to rescue the boy everything that she believes will be tested. Along the way she learns more and more about the boy's own remarkable journey to reach her and save the world.

A story within a story, this a modern day fairy-tale about the power of friendship, courage and love, and never ever giving up. (Courtesy of Amazon.com)

## Author Biography

Karen Foxlee

**Karen Foxlee** (born 1971 Mount Isa, Queensland) worked as a nurse for most of her adult life and also graduated from university with a degree in creative writing. She is the author of *The Midnight Dress* and *The Anatomy of Wings*, which Mark Zusak called "so special that you want to carry it around for months after you've finished, just to stay near it." Karen Foxlee lives in Gympie, Australia, with her daughter. (Courtesy of the publisher – Yearling Fantasy)



Learn more by visiting. [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Karen\\_Foxlee](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Karen_Foxlee)

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## **Student Checklist**

**Student Name**

# Ophelia and the Marvelous Boy



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Name:

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## Chapter 1



### Before you read the chapter:

The **antagonist** in most novels features the opponent of the main character (the bad guy). Think back on some of your favorite characters from past novels you have read or movies you've seen. What do you think makes for an especially interesting **antagonist**?




### Vocabulary:

Circle the correct word that best matches the meaning of the underlined word.

1. Ophelia tried, as hard as she could, to be interested in all these things.  
a) implemented      b) enforced      c) composed      d) concerned
  
2. Even with a map it was a very confusing place.  
a) disorienting      b) adjusted      c) convergent      d) confluent
  
3. She traveled the length of all eight glittering tentacles, observed the people falling back from the monster's mouth. She bent over and looked directly into its eye.  
a) obliged      b) wondered      c) witnessed      d) obligated

4. The room would have also been ordinary if it wasn't for the little stage at its end.
- a) unusual      b) mediocre      c) peculiar      d) curious
5. A foreign city was meant to take their minds off terrible things.
- a) terrific      b) intense      c) dreadful      d) consuming
6. "There is a boy child who shall undertake a treacherous journey to deliver a magical sword to the One Other so that the Snow Queen may be defeated."
- a) harmonious      b) perfidious      c) presumptuous      d) thoughtless

## Questions



1. What nickname did Lucy Coutts give to Ophelia?

2. Which of the following jobs did Ophelia's father have at the museum?

A. Curator of Swords	B. Curator of Battle	C. Curator of Peace
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3. Briefly describe an interesting exhibit that you would like to see in a museum, and why.

4. Who was holding the boy prisoner?

5. What did the wizards take away from the boy that he wanted back?

6. According to the boy, what do wizards smell like?

7. According to Ophelia, how was she different than her mother?

### Fascinating Facts

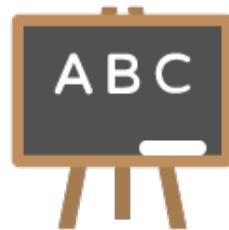
In the first chapter of our novel Ophelia implied that human beings are part of the primate family tree. However, contrary to this popular belief, there is actually no credible scientific evidence to support the theory that humans are descended from primates. Columnist Albert Fleischmann once wrote; “*The Darwinian theory of descent has not a single fact to confirm it in the realm of nature. It is not the result of scientific research, but purely the product of imagination.*”



### Language Activity



A. There are many writers that enjoy using **alliteration** – a literary device is where the author repeats the same sound at the beginning of several words. Here's an example of an alliteration: “grousing, grousing, grumbling, griping about something or other.”



Using your imagination, create your own examples of **alliteration** from the following topics. Each example must contain a minimum of three words.

The sounds of a schoolroom	
The sights of a museum	
One from your own imagination.	

**B.** A **simile** is a comparison using the words “like” or “as”. The following is an example from Chapter One: “All the while that summer, everyone was waiting for her. The Snow Queen, I mean. At first it seemed like the refugees appeared from the north, skinny and starving, children, mainly, who had managed to escape her. They said she had teeth like razors and hair like a blizzard and she carried a sword called the Great Sorrow.”



What two things are being compared in this example?

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Invent your own **similes** comparing the following items with something from your own imagination:

a) Children exploring a museum.

--

b) A magician performing an illusion.

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## C. Self Reflection

Take a few minutes to answer the following questions on the topic of *self reflection*.

**How would you describe your own character and actions toward others?**


**What would you consider to be your biggest strength?**


**What would you consider to be your biggest weakness or flaw?**


## Extension Activity



### Storyboard

A storyboard is a series of pictures that tell about an important event in a story.  
A storyboard can tell the story of only one scene – or the entire novel.

Complete the storyboard below illustrating the events described in the first chapter of our novel. You may wish to practice your drawings before you begin.



1	2
3	4
5	6